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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 11 January 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press communiqué issued at the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Cuba Joint Commission, held at the headquarters of the CARICOM secretariat on 13 December 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items entitled: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance; Sustainable development and international economic cooperations; International cooperation for economic growth and development; and Environment and sustainable development: implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(Signed) Fernando REMIREZ de ESTENOZ
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: English]

Communiqué dated 13 December 1993 by the Caribbean Community-Cuba Joint Commission

The inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Cuba Joint Commission was held at the CARICOM secretariat today, 13 December 1993.

The meeting immediately followed the signing of the agreement establishing the CARICOM-Cuba Joint Commission by H.E. Mr. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the CARICOM Community, and the Hon. Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Minister of Foreign Trade of Cuba, on behalf of CARICOM and Cuba, respectively.

The meeting was attended by a 13-member Cuban delegation which, in addition to the Minister included the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Culture, the Ambassador of Cuba to Guyana, the Cuban Ambassador to the Caribbean and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Cuba.

The Caribbean Community was represented by the Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the secretariats of CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

Both sides noted that the inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission was not a new beginning in CARICOM-Cuba relations, taking into account the efforts at cooperation between CARICOM and Cuba that have been maintained for some time, specifically through the extension by Cuba to the Community of a number of scholarships tenable at Cuban institutions of learning and Cuba's membership in CTO. In this regard, the meeting reviewed the scope of CARICOM-Cuba relations heretofore and, in addition, identified specific areas for cooperation over the next five years. The areas of cooperation identified by both sides include science and technology, particularly biotechnology, disaster preparedness, tourism, culture, human resource development, public health, trade, investment, transportation and marine resources, in particular fisheries. Cooperation in these areas will be incorporated in a plan of action. Working groups were established to develop more detailed programmes and carry forward the cooperation in various priority areas. The Joint Commission will monitor and supervise the execution of the cooperation projects over the five-year period.

On a related issue, the parties also discussed progress being made towards the establishment of an Association of Caribbean States (ACS), as recommended by the West Indian Commission (WIC) and sanctioned by the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM. The representatives of Cuba reiterated their Government's earlier expression of support for the ACS project which, in the view of the Cuban authorities, would benefit not only Cuba, but also the entire Caribbean.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission and saw in this mechanism and its support

structure an effective means for the continuation of the cooperative efforts between the Caribbean Community and Cuba.

The second meeting of the Joint Commission is scheduled to be convened in Cuba during the last quarter of 1994.